

★ news release

Most - 343-5634

FEATURE MATERIAL

Wings collected by hunters and sent to the Bureau will be used to determine the age, sex, and species of ducks killed during the special season. The questionnaire will show such things as hunter interest, participation, and success. Approximately 800 teal permit holders in each participating State will receive packets of envelopes for the wing collection survey and about 1,000 others in each State will receive the hunter questionnaires.

Federal and cooperative banding of blue-winged teal will be stepped up during the summer to get more data on migration and natural mortality for these birds. Banding also can show the effect of hunting on the blue-wing population. This is done by comparing the number of bands returned by hunters with the total number of birds banded. It will also show how the hunter's take varies according to age and sex of the birds.

Basically, the regulations will permit each of the 24 States in the Mississippi and Central Flyways to select a nine-day season between September 1-30, 1965. The bag limit will be four birds per day and eight in possession. These limits can include blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal, singly or in the aggregate. Shooting hours will be from sunrise to sunset.

Besides the teal permit, hunters must also have a valid State hunting license when required by the State, and, if 16 or older, a 1965 Duck Stamp.

The kill of green-winged and cinnamon teal is expected to be small because green-wings are late migrants and cinnamon teal are uncommon in the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

Mississippi Flyway States are Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The Central Flyway includes Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming lying east of the Continental Divide.

Unless summer population surveys show a pronounced decline in bird numbers, the special teal season will be conducted for three years. Statistics collected for the three seasons will be used to decide whether an early teal season could become a regular part of the waterfowl management program.

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